

ABAC Meeting Minutes for October 1, 2007

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ted Packard, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin and Scott Smith. Joey Glushko, Pete Howard, and Jeff Roth were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30.

The minutes for the last meeting are not complete.

Comments on recent events. Jack told us more about the new bicycle program in Boston. Christopher asked Jack what he thought the priorities of the new program are. The planning is at an early stage but Jack is in communication with some of the planners. Jack also told us about the Hub on Wheels ride which took place last week. Storrow Drive was closed for the ride which went through Boston to the Neponset River Bike Path. The ride was organized by the city of Boston. Ted told us about the ground-breaking for the Bruce Freeman Rail-Trail in Chelmsford.

Update on bikeway user counts, intersection behavior, and Selectman's subcommittee on bikeway safety issues. Scott walked us through the data he has collected. Most people on bicycles slow down and look at intersections. He then explained the differences between flow and use in traffic engineering terms. We compared the crash numbers on for path intersections and the roads in general and decided that there is not (yet) a major problem on the path by this criterion. Bike crashes at bikeway intersections are 10-fold lower than for automobiles on a use normalized basis. The Selectmen created a committee to look at the overall safety on the bike path. Scott, Jack, Jack Hurd, and Clarissa Rowe are some of the participants.

Update on bike-rack installations in Arlington. Racks have been received and the installation has begun. Rack are being installed around town (see minutes from previous meetings). Jack asked whether the second batch of racks should be ordered and installed. He also suggested that we focus next on getting bike parking in the business areas. We will discuss the next list of sites at the next meeting.

Update on tri-town bikeway meeting, scheduled for Thursday night, November 1. The tri-town bike meeting will be held in Arlington on Thursday November 1 at Town Hall.

Update on Mass Ave. corridor project. Scott told us that the design work has not started and is currently being reviewed by the state.

Update on bikeway plowing proposal. Jeff told us about the review of the issue of plowing the path at the Selectmen's meeting. Many groups spoke out in favor

of plowing. There were some abutters who were opposed. We discussed the estimates of costs made by the DPW. We did not agree with the estimates. We discussed the necessity of plowing the ramps as well as the path. Pete suggested that the proper way to proceed is to bring the issue in front of Town Meeting.

Pete told us about results from the Vision 2020 survey which imply that plowing the path is not high on the citizens list of priorities. We decided that the committee is still divided on this topic and that we cannot, as a committee, take a position.

Discussion of ABAC Winter Social. *Note that Thurs/Feb 14 is Valentine's Day. Schedule on Thurs/Feb 7 or Tues/Feb 12 or Thur instead, if Whittemore-Robbins House is available?* We discussed the possible dates for the Winter Social. Ron suggested Feb 13. Topics we talked about include the Mass Ave. corridor, Bikes Not Bombs, the new Boston bicycle program (invite Nicole Freedman), Bruce Lederer, or Craig Della Penna Ted suggested that we invite a local bicycle frame builder.

Reappointment of ABAC voting members. Jack reminded us that this needs to be done.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.